THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Coal India Limited (CIL), the details of sand stowing for conservation of coal and development of roads undertaken by Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) in colliery areas of West Bengal in the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given below:—

Name of work	1993-94		1994-95	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Sand Stowing for Conservation	55,39,072 M^3	29,66,500 M^3	52.02,674M^3	31.11,917 M^3
Development of roads	20Kms.	2179Kms.	30Ksm.	36.04 Kms.

Loss incurred due to Import/Export of food materials

1846. SHRI PAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state;

(a) the amount of loss incurred as a result of import/export of sugar, wheat and rice during 1994-95 and upto 31st July, during 1995-96;

(b) the name of the countries, the quantity of sugar/wheat/rice and the retes at which these were imported;

(c) the foreign exchange spent on it during the said period; and

(d) the action taken against the persons responsible for the loss incurred in each case?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

People living below the poverty line

1847. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of persons living below poverty line and whether it has risen from 34.1 per cent to 44 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the availability of foodgrains per day per capita has come down from 477.4 gm in 1990 to 474.2 gm in 1994;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what is the number of people suffering from hunger as on 1st July, 1995 and how does the same compare with that during the last three years on the same date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty using the quinquennial survey data (large surveys) on household consumer expenditure released by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The last two such surveys relate to the year 1983 (NSS 38th round) and 1987-88 (NSS 43rd round). Planning Commission has estimated the incidence of poverty as 37.4 per cent in 1983-84 and 29.9 per cent in 1987-88. However, the expert group on estimation of proportion and number of poor constituted by the Planning Commission estimated the incidence of poverty in 1983 as 44.8 per cent and in 1987-88 as 39.3 per cent. The number of poor according to the Planning Commission has come down from 271 million in 1983-84 to 237.7 million in 1987-88- According to the Expert Group, the number of poor has come down from 327 million in 1983 to 312.7 million in 1987-88.

(c) and (d) The per capita net availability of foodgrains as per latest economic survey, was 476.4 grams per day in 1990 and 474.2 grams in 1994. The estimates of 1994 are provisional and the difference of 2.2 grams is very marginal.

(e) Number of people suffering from hunger as on 1.7.1995 and during the last three years are not available.

Computer Software sectors in European Union and Japan

1848. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that neither the European Union nor Japan have agreed to open up their Computer Software sectors to foreign officials;

(b) whether U.S. has liberalised entry of Computer Software; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) As a part of the Uruguay Round Market Access Package on Services, the US, the European Union (EU) and Japan have undertaken to liberalise market access in the computer and related services sector. As far as access to foreign service providers in this sector is concerned, all three have undertaken to bind commitments on the entry of natural persons with commercial presence viz; intra-corporate transferes and business visitors.

In addition, the US and European Union have also undertaken to liberalise the entry of natural persons as service providers without commercial presence.

Loss of export revenue due to shortage of cranes to load foredgrains

1849. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is losing billions of dollars in export revenues because there are not enough cranes to load foodgrains into ships at major ports;

(b) whether the study carried out by the Technology, Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) of the Department of science & Technology reveals that almost 40% of India's agricultural exportable surplus does not find its way into international markets due to inadequate infrastructure for transportation; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Expansion of exports has brought into focus infrastructural issues. Resort to any specific port in excessive measure for movement of the bulk of foodgrains of export cargo tends to cause congestion. Export of foodgrains, therefore, is being arranged through various ports, major and minor, unrestrained, *inter alia*, by hosting capacities.

(b) and (c) The Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council's (TIFAC's) studies are in the context of containerisation technology and regrigerated transit. The Government export thrust places like emphasis on containerisation and movement of reefer cargoes.

मध्य प्रदेश में तम्बाकू और बीड़ी कामगार

1850. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा:

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में तम्बाकू और बीड़ी कामगारों की कुल संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) इन कामगारों के लिए न्यूनतम वेतन की निर्धारित दर क्या है; और

(ग) न्यूनतम वेतन के उचित कार्यान्वयन हेतु सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री पी॰ए॰ संगमा): (क) मध्य प्रदेश में बीड़ी कर्मकारों की अनुमानित संख्या 6.60 लाख है।

(ख) एक हज़ार बीड़ियां लपेटने के लिए न्यूनतम मजदूरी की दर 14.10.93 से 22.50 रु॰ है।